

same evening advanced off Blackheath into Southwark, and gave out that they would burn down the suburb if they were excluded from the city. The threat was emphasised by the destruction of Marshalsea prison before the eyes of the citizen-guard on London Bridge.¹ Other rioters gutted Lambeth Palace, with cries of 'A revell ! a revell!' as an earnest of their intentions against the Primate-Chancellor.² Some began to pull down the private houses of official persons and jurymen on the Surrey side.³ The danger of Southwark was not the only pressure brought to bear on the authorities. The lower orders in the city itself were for the rebels. The stalwart prentices, trained in many a street fight, were attracted by the prospect of a riot on a gigantic scale. The sacred right of insurrection was well known to them ; it had become almost a light thing in their eyes. This would be a rare opportunity to pay off old scores against John of Gaunt, against the Flemings of the river-side and the lawyers of the Temple. Besides the apprentices, there was a vast floating population of labourers in and out of employment, of men of all sorts who had come to make their fortunes in London, of runaway villeins, and plotters who had come there on purpose to be at hand at this critical moment.

Nothing was done that night, but on Thursday morning Alderman Horn rode out again to harangue the peasants. He took with him the royal standard, which he had obtained from the town clerk, so as to figure as an authorised messenger. On his way out he was met by a man really commissioned by the King to speak with the rebels, and the two bandied words. Horn rode on to Tyler and his confederates, and urged them to advance on the bridge, which he said was held only by their friends. Such, in fact, was now the case. The bridge had that morning been duly occupied by Walter Sybyle, * the Alderman of Bridge,' so called because that important ingress lay in the ward for which he was responsible. Several magnates of the city came to help him hold it, but he refused their services in the most positive manner, and insisted

¹ *C. JR. R.*, 488, Rex. vi. (B6y. 190-1) ; *H. R.*, 514; Froiss., ii. 468; Knighton, ii. 132.

³ *H. R.*, 514; Higden, ix. 1-2.

* *H. R.*, 514.